

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00447 210841Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

O RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5110

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0447

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, H.A.), PFOR, WA

SUBJ: PROPOSAL FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER TO MEET SWAPO

REF: LUSAKA 979

1. WHILE I HAVE NOT HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS REFTEL WITH SENATOR PERCY WHO IS CURRENTLY IN NAMIBIA, I HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT SECRETARY ASKING FOR MEETING WITH SWAPO LEADERS IN LUSAKA.

2. RECOGNIZING THAT THERE ARE ADVANTAGES IN HAVING OPPORTUNITY MEET SWAPO REPS TO GET IMPRESSION OF THEM AND HEAR THEIR VIEWS AS WELL AS INDICATE VERY GENUINE US CONCERN WITH NAMIBIA QUESTION, WE NONETHELESS BELIEVE THESE OUTWEIGHED BY FOLLOWING DISADVANTAGES.

A. MEETING WITH SWAPO AT USG REQUEST COULD BE PLAYED BY THEM AND OTHERS AS RECOGNITION OF SWAPO CLAIM TO BE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF NAMIBIAN PEOPLE, A POSITION WHICH USG HAS SO FAR AVOIDED (DESPITE SWAPO'S OBVIOUS IMPORTANCE) BECAUSE OF THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER GROUPS WITH LEGITIMATE INTERESTS, AND OUR HOPE THAT SAG MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO MOVE TOWARD SOLUTION BY BROADENING CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS AND ENGAGING IN SOME KIND OF ELECTORAL PROCESS FOR SELF DETERMINATION OPEN TO ALL GROUPS, INCLUDING SWAPO.

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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00447 210841Z

B. MEETING LIKELY TO BE SEEN AS DELIBERATE AFFRONT TO OTHER GROUPS AND TO SAG, ESPECIALLY SINCE SWAPO INSISTS ON INITIATIVE COMING FROM USG, AND SINCE DEPARTMENT DID NOT RECEIVE MIXED DELEGATION FROM SWA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AT HIGHER THAN COUNTRY DIRECTOR LEVEL IN WASHINGTON LAST YEAR. IMPRESSION OF OPEN MINDED APPROACH WOULD BE LOST AS THERE WOULD NOT BE EQUIVALENT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OTHER NAMIBIAN REPRESENTATIVES DURING TRIP. SINCE NON-VIOLENT CHANGE IN NAMIBIA WILL NOT TAKE PLACE WITHOUT AT LEAST TACIT COOPERATION OF SAG, THERE IS RISK OF WEAKENING ANY LEVERAGE WE MIGHT HOPE TO APPLY TO SAG IF WE APPEAR DETERMINED TO DEAL WITH ONLY ONE SIDE.
BOWDLER

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